



Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

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April 27, 2009

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
South Dakota Congressional Representative
331 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Herseth Sandlin:

I fully support the Deployment of an Electronic Screening and Safety Inspection Facility at the Tilford Interstate 90 Port of Entry.

The Tilford Port of Entry serves all commercial vehicle traffic entering South Dakota on eastbound Interstate 90 from Wyoming. This is an important economic route, not only for transcontinental commercial traffic, but also for commercial traffic operating within the Black Hills region of western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming.

The existing Port of Entry is heavily used, but lacks electronic screening, a technology that can recognize approaching vehicles and allow carriers with up-to-date credentials and a proven record of consistent safe performance to proceed past the port of entry without stopping. Electronic screening would allow enforcement staff to focus attention on vehicles belonging to less safe carriers, which would continue to be directed into the Port of Entry.

The economic, safety, and environmental benefits of electronic screening are compelling. Carriers allowed to bypass the port of entry realize direct monetary savings estimated at \$2 per minute saved not waiting in the entry queue to the Port of Entry. Carriers who do enter the port of entry also realize savings because queue length and waiting time are significantly reduced. Reduced traffic congestion at the Port of Entry and more effective safety enforcement produce direct safety benefits. By reducing the number of vehicles that must wait in the entry queue and the amount of waiting time, vehicle exhaust emissions are reduced in the environmentally sensitive Black Hills region.

I respectfully request your support of this project as well because it is economically and environmentally beneficial for our state's citizens and the commercial carriers who visit South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Darin P. Bergquist
Secretary

Attachment